

March 11, 2108

Christopher Korleski

Director, Water Division

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 5

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

We are writing as residents of Menominee County, Michigan and concerned homeowners who reside on the Menominee River south of the proposed Back 40 mine.

We would hope since there is major concern that Aquila Resources would be self-monitoring that an independent party would be used for the testing.

I have read your EPA review letter and attachment dated March 8, 2018. Those of us who live here appreciate clean air and water thank you (the EPA) for your input. Your letter mentions 500 acres of wetlands selected for preservation. This is a proposed land swap between Aquila Resources and the State of Michigan which is yet to be determined by the DNR. Petitions, emails and phones calls have been sent to the DNR to prevent this land swap. There is also a question as to the owner of the property as it is being held by a land broker and Aquila does not appear to be the owner.

Off-site alternatives were mentioned as Aquila Resources has stated it is not financially feasible. Aquila Resources has two proposed mines in Marathon and Taylor counties in Wisconsin. Aquila has made a public statement to the residents of those counties that they will not process (mill) the rock in those counties but will transport 190 miles to the proposed Back 40 mine. If the costs to transport 190 miles is feasible why would it not be feasible to transport to Canada as Sault Ste Marie, Canada is 200 miles from the proposed Back 40 mine. With the additional waste and rock storage for these two additional projects I do not see the current footprint being able to accommodate.

Impact by planned underground mining will have an impact on additional wetlands not only in Michigan but also Wisconsin as Aquila Resources has already been purchasing mineral rights to land across the river from the proposed Back 40 mine. It will also have impact on the aquatic life in the Menominee and the food they live on.

Impact from blasting vibrations will also have on effects wetland creatures and plants and also the aquatic life in the Menominee River. Blasting can cause mortality, physical injury, auditory tissue damage, permanent and temporary threshold shifts, behavioral changes and decreased egg and larvae viability. There has been no testing done for effects of blasting vibrations on the White Rapids Dam, less than a mile from the proposed mine site, which is over 90 years old (life of a cement dam is 50-100 years). The failure of the dam would create an environmental disaster (estimated to take out the dams all the way to the bay with an estimated 30-foot wall of water by the time the water reaches the

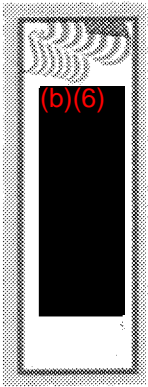
Menominee and Marinette area) including destructions of wetlands, aquatic life, human life and property. There is no warning system should this happen and there are no financial assurances to assist in such a disaster. Aquila Resources has NO catastrophic modeling in place for pollution of the land, air and water.

This area is home to thousands of people who have chosen this area for the clean air and water and to be able to enjoy the fishing. It is so exciting to see sturgeon swimming in the river and watch the baby eagles grow up. The proposed mine will not have a cover on their waste ponds or tailings piles leaving the birds in danger. There are laws protecting the eagles and migratory birds yet all this waste will remain uncovered. On November 28, 2016 25,000 snow geese were poisoned when they consumed waste in Butte, Montana when they were resting. Protection is needed.

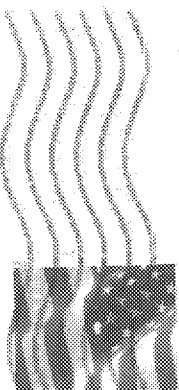
We hope these concerns will be addressed.

Thank you! 

Citizen Name / Ex. 6



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